

November 20, 2020

Utility Projects Update

Below please find a brief update related to several utility projects:

Webb Road Water Line Extension – Approximately 6,000 linear feet of the 7,633 linear feet of water main has been installed. Due to the Thanksgiving holiday it will likely be early December before all construction and flushing is complete for this project.

Palestine Pump Station – Construction continues. Substantial completion is anticipated by mid-December 2020.

West Stanly Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade – The 3rd project progress meeting occurred on Wednesday, November 18, 2020. Haren has indicated they will be mobilized on-site by the week of November 23. The construction trailer should be delivered this week. The final project completion date is December 28, 2021. The Board approved the NC DEQ loan funding on Monday, November 16 so all funding for the project is in place.

Further, the Wooten Company is still working to complete the PER (preliminary engineering report) for the 2.5 mgd expansion project. Wooten is recommending the County pursue USDA grant and loan funding for the project given the longer amortization period.

Phase 4 Water & Sewer Authority Project – The project is still moving forward and is scheduled to get USDA approval in December 2020 or January 2021. All indications from USDA suggest the County will receive 45% of the funding via a grant. This is critical in order to meet the bond covenants related to servicing the incurred debt for the project.

Expenditure and Revenue Summary

As of October 31, 2020, revenues during the four (4) month period from July-October were trending above the target percentage. The County's actual revenues through October were at 43.37% of budget. At this same time last year, the County had received and booked 42.09% of its amended budget revenue. As of October 2018, the County had received 43.97% of its amended budget revenue.

The County's expenditures through October are trending slightly ahead of the target percentage at 38.18%. At this same time last fiscal year, the County had expended 36.64% of its amended budget. In FY 18-19, the County had expended 36.63% of the amended budget.

The County's fund balance available for appropriation as of October 31 was at 45.79% of expenditures. Fund balance at this same time last fiscal year was at 46.87%. In FY 18-19, the fund balance as a percentage of expenditures as of October 31 was at 42.45%.

The County's General Fund cash position as of October 2020 was \$39.18 million. This figure is \$2.02 million (5%) higher than October 2019 and \$8.1 million (26%) higher than October 2018.

The County's group health insurance fund is trending favorably in comparison to the budget target. As of October 31, revenues exceeded expenses by approximately \$639,000. At this same time last fiscal year, expenses exceeded revenue by \$134,000.

Overall, the County's utility Enterprise Funds (e.g. water and sewer) are trending more favorably than at this same time period last fiscal year. Thus, it appears our renewed focus on customer service and revenue collection is demonstrating positive progress to date in FY 20-21.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Regular BOCC Meeting

Monday, December 7
6:00 PM

Gene McIntyre Meeting Room